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IDACS OPERATORS COURSE INTRODUCTION

Why must I attend this class? Most individuals who do not operate the terminal on a regular basis ask this question. Let's explore just a few of the good reasons why.

The first good reason to train is to keep you informed about what is available and how to access it. Our system (IDACS/NCIC/NLETS) is becoming more and more complex with each new day. A little over twenty-five years ago, there was hardly a system and training was optional. Today, however, there are many functions available to the operator including: the various BMV files, the IDACS/NCIC Wanted Files, NCIC's III, message switching, Hit Confirmation, out-of-state and Canadian files, criminal history files, NICB (formerly NATB) files, and Hazardous Materials files.

The second reason an operator must be trained is IDACS/NCIC/NLETS rules and regulations. Each operator needs to know what is available, as well as what can and cannot be done with system data according to State and Federal Laws. Indiana Code, Indiana Administrative Code, and Federal Title 28 are quite specific about the misuse of data. Beyond misuse of system data violations, there are sanctions that can be imposed upon an agency for violations of rules and regulations.

The third reason for training is due to a large number of civil lawsuits that have been filed throughout the country concerning the lack of proper training for law enforcement personnel. There are case studies available in the pamphlet entitled "NCIC Areas of Liability." "Inadequate policy may result in a finding by a court that breach of a specific duty has occurred and the persons involved are liable for damages under the general principles of tort law."

In summary, even though an individual may not operate a terminal on a regular basis, the potential for misuse of the system and its data still exists. An operator must be aware of procedures, regulations, liabilities, and the proper way to utilize the system. IDACS Operators must be informed and to be informed, they must be trained.